



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

Senate Bill 1045: Driver's Education to Include Organ Donation Education

With the heart insignia now a permanent part of the driver's license and state ID card, it is easier for residents to register their wishes regarding organ and tissue donation.

Every teen and new driver will have the opportunity to make a vital decision when getting their new license. Senate Bill 1045 permits driver's education courses to now include education about organ and tissue donation. By giving proper information and providing resources to answer difficult questions, the program will encourage important conversations to occur with family members prior to going to the Secretary of State's office.

Currently, this type of program is mandated in seventeen states and twenty additional states have established partnerships which recognize the necessity of educating teens on the importance of organ and tissue donation. As is seen in the table below, prior education has a direct impact on a resident's willingness to commit to organ and tissue donation.

Table I: Comparison of Great Lakes States with Donor Education in Driver's Education

State	Program	Active Registration Rate in DMV*	Percent of Population Registered*	Percent of Drivers Registered**
Illinois	Voluntary Secretary of State program adopted by driver's education facilities	51%	38%	59%
Indiana	8 minute program and accompanying brochure	n/a	50%	74%
Michigan	No program	10%	17%	24%
Minnesota	Mandated time requirement 30 minute program	n/a	43%	72%
Ohio	Mandated time requirement 30 minute program	55%	42%	61%
Wisconsin	Mandated time requirement 30 minute program	60%	42%	58%
Nationally	17 states total	46%	36%	51%

*Percents represent people on the state's registry; current to September 30, 2009; data provided by Donate Life America. Active registration rate is the annual rate at which residents join the registry when renewing or receiving a new license or state ID. It is a good measure of how actively citizens renew or join the registry in their state.

**Drivers represent both licensed drivers and state ID card holders.

With the program receiving funding from outside sources, this bill is a win-win proposition for driver's education businesses, organ and tissue donation education organizations, and the Department of State. Gift of Life Michigan asks that you support Senate Bill 1045 and the good policy it represents – for education of our youth and for the 3,000 residents waiting for a transplant in our state.

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Table II: DMV ACTIVITY AND THE DONOR REGISTRY

JOINING THE REGISTRY			REGISTRY PROMOTION IN DMV						FUNDING MECHANISMS		DONOR EDUCATION	
How may a patron join the registry?	Is the question asked of patrons?	Posters?	Brochures?	Training provided for office staff?	Training videos?	Buddy days?	Access to office managers?	Average participation in registry promotion	Primary funding source	Donation fund (and average annual revenue)	Driver's Education Classes	
Illinois Office, renewal forms, internet	Required	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	67%	Government (through Appropriations)	N/A	Voluntary in cooperation with the DMV	
Indiana Office, renewal forms, internet	Required	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	67%	Donation Fund	\$150,000	Voluntary in cooperation with the DMV	
Minnesota Office, renewal forms, internet	Clerk's discretion	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	33%	OPO	N/A	Mandated 30 minutes instruction	
Ohio Office, renewal forms, internet	Required	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	83%	Government (through Donation Fund)	\$900,000	Mandated 30 minutes instruction	
Wisconsin Office, renewal forms, internet (2010)	Required	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	50%	Government (through appropriations/license plates)	Registry to start in 2010	Mandated 30 minutes instruction	
Michigan Internet	Clerk's discretion	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	50%	OPO	\$1,000		N

All DMV offer the opportunity to indicate on the state identification card
None of the DMVs offer the opportunity with vehicle registrations

Source: Donate Life America, 9/30/2009

Table II represents all efforts undertaken by Departments of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in neighboring states.

While there is great variety in the type of outreach provided to clients of the DMV, an initiative consistent across all bordering states is that donor education is offered in driver's education classes.